

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
DHA-02 PM-03 DODE-00 EUR-08 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 SP-02
/056 W

-----011623Z 106807 /42

R 311852Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4173

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 2648

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI PFOR PE

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL ON CHILE-PERU RELATIONS

1. IN TOUR D'HORIZON WITH GOC FOREIGN MINISTER ADMIRAL
PATRICIO CARVAJAL MARCH 30, AMBASSADOR FOUND HIM UTTERLY
UNRESPONSIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS BUT PASSIONATE ON RELATIONS
WITH PERU.

2. AMBASSADOR DIRECTED DISCUSSION TO THE RESULTS OF
THE RECENT VISIT TO CHILE BY PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER/
MINISTER OF WAR GUILLERMO ARBULU (SANTIAGO 2398), AND
ITS BEARING ON CHILE-PERU RELATIONS. CARVAJAL FELT
THAT THE ARBULU VISIT HAD BEEN USEFUL IN HELPING TO
DISPEL A POSSIBLE WAR PSYCHOSIS. IT WAS ANOTHER
STEP TAKEN BY THE MILITARY TO MAINTAIN SUPERFICIALLY
GOOD RELATIONS. FOR THIS REASON, GOC NAVY CINC AND
JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MERINO WOULD VISIT PERU IN APRIL.

3. IN EMPHATIC LANGUAGE, CARVAJAL THEN MADE A DISTINCTION

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BETWEEN THIS SORT OF ROLE-PLAYING AND THE REALITIES
OF THE SITUATION, WHEN AMBASSADOR QUESTIONED HIM
REGARDING POSSIBLE POLITICAL CONVERSATIONS. CARVAJAL
SAID IT WAS USELESS FOR CHILE TO TALK TO THE PERUVIANS
SERIOUSLY AS LONG AS THEY WERE BUYING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS
FROM THE USSR WHICH THEY DO NOT NEED AND CANNOT AFFORD.
CHILE THREATENS NO ONE AND WANTS NO PERUVIAN TERRITORY,

HE ASSERTED, AND IT IS NOT BUYING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS. NO ONE IS PERSUADED BY THE ARGUMENT THAT PERU IS MERELY REPLACING OLD EQUIPMENT. EVEN ON THE CONCESSIONAL TERMS OFFERED BY THE SOVIETS, BUYING AND PARTICULARLY MAINTAINING THE NEW ARMAMENT IMPOSES A FINANCIAL BURDEN ON PERU WHICH IT CAN HARDLY CARRY. AS LONG AS THIS SITUATION EXISTS, THERE IS NO POINT TO DISCUSSIONS WITH PERU.

4. COMMENT: CARVAJAL'S FRANKNESS WAS UNUSUAL. IT REFLECTS WHAT WE HAVE FREQUENTLY REPORTED -- THAT USEFUL AS MILITARY EXCHANGE VISITS ARE, THEY HAVE NO EFFECT WHATEVER IN RELIEVING THE CHILEANS' NAGGING CONCERNS ABOUT PERUVIAN INTENTIONS. THESE CONCERNS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY PERU'S DE FACTO BLOCKAGE OF THE CHILEAN CORRIDOR OFFER TO BOLIVIA AS WELL AS BY ITS CONTINUING SOVIET ARMS ACQUISITIONS.

5. FOREGOING EXPLAINS CARVAJAL'S UNWILLINGNESS TO TALK WITH PERUVIAN FONMIN DE LA PUENTE (LIMA 2450).
POPPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTIA02648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770112-0826
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977032/aaaaaboa.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dc1cd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2989962
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL ON CHILE-PERU RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CI, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc1cd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009